Registers of Papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress

DMITRII ANTONOVICH VOLKOGONOV

A REGISTER OF HIS PAPERS IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Prepared by
Andrei Pliguzov and Paul Frank

Manuscript Division Library of Congress

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Administrative Information

The papers of Dmitrii Antonovich Volkogonov (1928-1995), military historian, writer, member of the Russian parliament, and advisor to the president of the Russian Federation, were bequeathed by Volkogonov to the Library of Congress in 1996.

It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian for information concerning these restrictions.

A microfilm edition of part of these papers on fifteen reels is available from the Library's Photoduplication Service for purchase subject to the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.). This microfilm edition may also be requested on interlibrary loan through the Library's Loan Division. Ten reels may be requested at a time for a loan period of one month.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 14 Approximate number of items: 10,150

Biographical Note

1928, Mar. 22	Born, Mangut, Chitinskii Region, Russia
1937	Father executed as an enemy of the people
1946	Entered Ul'ianovsk Military Tank School and became a propoganda officer
1947	Joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
1951	Married Galina Alekseevna Kuptsova
1952	Daughter Tat'iana Dmitrievna born
1959-62	Student at V.I. Lenin Military Academy
1960	Daughter Ol'ga Dmitrievna born
1966	Defended doctoral (kandidatskaia) dissertation
1966-70	Taught philosophy at the V.I. Lenin Military Academy
1970	Defended doctoral dissertation in philosophy Transferred to the General Political Directorate of the Soviet Army
1973	Appointed colonel-general of the Soviet army
1985	Proposal to liquidate political units of the Soviet army and replace them with information units resulted in removal from office
1985-91	Director, Institute of Military History of the Ministry of Defense and the Russian Academy of Sciences
1988	Met Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin at the Nineteenth Party Conference in June
1989	Publication of <i>Triumf i tragediia: politicheskii portret I.V. Stalina: v 2-kh knigakh</i> (Moscow: 1zd-vo Agenstva pechati Novosti. 2 vols. in 4)

1990	Elected to the Russian parliament Publication of 30-e gody: vzgliad iz segodnia (Moscow: Nauka. 164 pp.) Defended doctoral dissertation in history: "Stalinism: Essence, Genesis, and Evolution"
1991	Diagnosed with terminal cancer Appointed security and defense advisor to Yeltsin when the Soviet Union dissolved and Russia became independent; took an active role in the formation of a new Russian ministry of defense Appointed chair of the commission for creation of the Russian defense ministry and armed forces
1992	Publication of <i>Trotskii: politicheskii portret: v dvukh knigakh</i> (Moscow: Novosti. 2 vols.) Appointed Russian cochairman of the U.SRussia Joint Commission on Prisoners of Wars and Missing in Action Elected corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences
1993	Elected to first post-Soviet parliament on reformer Yegor Gaidar's ticket Elected member of presidential council
1994	Publication of Lenin: politicheskii portret v dvukh knigakh (Moscow: Novosti. 2 vols.)
1995	Publication of Sem' vozhdei: galereia liderov SSSR: v 2-kh knigakh (Moscow: Novosti. 2 vols.) Awarded Gosudarstvennaia Premiia
1995, Dec. 6	Died, Krasnogorsk, Russia

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Dmitrii Antonovich Volkogonov span the years 1763 to 1995, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1917 to 1995. The collection consists of copies of material reproduced and supplied by twelve Russian archives as well as originals of some of Volkogonov's personal papers. Included are correspondence, memoranda, reports, official protocols, directives, resolutions, schedules, logs, inventories of archival material, texts of speeches, personal testimonies, investigative reports, film scenarios, interviews, articles, photographs, and miscellaneous printed matter.

The collection is divided into thirteen series. Twelve of the series represent individual archives in the former Soviet Union and Russia. The name of the series is the English-language title of the archives from which the copies were collected, and the parenthetical qualifier is the acronym of the Russian title. The thirteenth series contains personal papers of Volkogonov. The series are arranged alphabetically by name of archives. The size, chronology, and content of each series vary greatly.

Volkogonov used the records as primary source material for his historical writing and biographies. Tight restrictions on access to Russian archives were a hindrance to his research, and although he served in the military and was a Communist Party member for over forty years, he found only one archives fully open to him, the Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense. The openness and reforms in the beginning stages of Perestroika in 1986, however, eventually allowed Volkogonov wider access to other archival material, and he collected voluminously from 1986 to his death in 1995.

Volkogonov's principal interest was the Soviet period and the figures who played major roles in its development. Two distinct generations of Soviet history were the primary focus of his work. Modern Russian history, according to Volkogonov, began in the 1870s and 1880s with the births of the participants in the events that led to the Russian Revolution and continued through World War II. Personalities were of great interest to Volkogonov, and his works include biographies of Leon Trotsky, Joseph Stalin, Vladimir Lenin, and other Soviet leaders.

Almost all major internal historical events in the development of the Soviet Union and its empire are documented in these records, but there is a large amount of material related to foreign relations and external events as well. Because much of the material was used for biographical research, the psychology and effects of absolute power are also well illustrated in documents throughout the collection.

The Soviet Union officially entered World War II on June 21, 1941, following the invasion of German troops. In 1939 Russian troops had occupied

large regions of Poland, and in 1940 they invaded the Baltic States and engaged in the Finnish War. The year 1941, however, marked the beginning of the Great Patriotic War (Velikaia Otechestvennaia Voina). The Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense (TsAMO) series is essentially a World War II file and is divided into four chronological subseries covering the war in the Soviet Union, 1941-45. The series is perhaps the most comprehensive one in the collection. Volkogonov had full access to these documents throughout his early writing career when he published and edited military propoganda. Material in this series and in the Post World War II File that does not relate directly to World War II includes records on the alleged criminal activities of Lavrentii Pavlovich Beriia, a file on Cuba during the missile crisis of October 1962, and documents on the military build-up in the Soviet Union in the Cold War period.

In size, the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA) is among the largest in the collection, but in scope it is much more focused. This series is basically a file which Volkogonov used for his biography of Trotsky published in 1992. Items highlight Trotsky's activities as chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic and military issues in the Soviet Union. Files on the "counterrevolutionary" conspiracy in the Red Army include many of the personal appeals made by participants in the conspiracy to exonerate their activities.

The small group of records from the Archive of the Institute of Military History of the Ministry of Defense and the Russian Academy of Sciences (AlVI MO RAN) consists of copies of material that is a part of the Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense. As director of the Institute of Military History from 1985 to 1991, Volkogonov was able to use the material in the Archive of the Institute with no restrictions. This series supplement the material in the Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense series.

Several of the series are quite small. Records from the Central Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (TsA MVD) include only two documents: one dealing with the development of concentration camps in the Soviet Union and the other discussing exclusionary practices in Communist Party organizations. In the Center for the Preservation of Contemporary Documentation (TsKhSD) series, official protocols of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (TsK KPSS) and correspondence to the heads of state on internal issues in the years 1954-91 are well represented. The Center for the Preservation of Historical Documentary Collections (TsKhIDK) series focuses on the years 1917-20 and the Russian Revolution. Included are surveys of archival material on Lenin, Trotsky, Inessa Armand, Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin, and others. The Central Archive of the Border Troops (TsAPV) series relates to air-space violations in the Far East near the city of Vladivostok in the 1950s. In the Archive of the Foreign Policy of Russia (AVPR) series, there are copies of valuable correspondence between Nikita S. Khrushchev and John F. Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. Earlier records relate to Soviet relations with Germany, Poland, and Finland on the eve of World War II.

Vladimir Lenin and the cult that surrounded his personality after his death was the subject of a biography by Volkogonov published in 1990. Lenin's

activities are documented throughout this collection, especially by records in the Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Recent Historical Documents (RTsKhIDNI) series. This series includes many recently-published documents as well as unpublished ones that illustrate Lenin's personality as well as his political views. Also present are five accounts by witnesses and participants in the assassination of Nicholas 11 and the imperial family in 1918.

Numerous files in the Central Archive of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (TsAFSB RF) series include secret agent reports as well as personal information in the Investigation File. The Emigration File includes documents on post-Revolutionary emigration and the activities of monarchists and social revolutionaries abroad.

Documents from the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF) supplement and enhance material from other series in the collection. The material on the Doctors' Plot and related correspondence of Lidiia F. Timoshchuk are noteworthy. There is also additional material on the assassination of Nicholas II and the imperial family, including a transcript of the interrogation of Aleksandr Fedorovich Kerenskii from the collection of Nikolai Aleksandrovich Sokolov supplementing personal accounts of this event in the Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Recent Historical Documents series.

Volkogonov was instrumental in the creation of the exhibit "Revelations from the Russian Archives" at the Library of Congress from June 17 to July 16, 1992. Copies of some of the documents in that exhibit are represented here, and the seventeen documents that comprise the Russian State Archive of the Economy (RGAE) series were part of the section of the exhibit that concerned economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the 1920s and 1930s. These documents are described in detail in the booklet "Revelations from the Russian Archives - a Checklist" that accompanied the exhibit and in Revelations from the Russian Archives: Documents in English Translation, Diane P Kenker and Ronald D. Bachman, eds., Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, 1997.

A prolific writer, Volkogonov wrote more than twenty-eight books. His biography of Joseph Stalin has been published in twenty-one countries. His interpretations were often controversial and in 1985, he was removed from his position of assistant to the director of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet army because of his views on the role of the Army. He was reassigned to the Institute of Military History of the Ministry of Defense and the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1991, he was relieved of this position following the publication of the first volume of a ten-volume work on World War II in which he noted the unpreparedness of the Soviet army and Stalin's attitude towards the war. Volkogonov also published a biography of Stalin in which he maintained his criticism of the Russian dictator.

All of Volkogonov's works that were nearing completion and publication are included in the Personal Papers series. The Correspondence File in this series contains letters from Volkogonov to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and material on modern Russian archival policies and Volkogonov's pivotal role in

their development. For researchers of American history, the folder on the U.S.-Russia Commission on Prisoners of Wars and Missing in Action is noteworthy. Volkogonov was the Russian cochairman of this commission.

Because each series of the collection includes copies of records housed in a different Russian archives, there is considerable chronological overlap and numerous cross references have been included in the container list. The majority of the documents are photocopies made for Volkogonov, and there is a wide range of print quality. Although the most recent materials are in quite readable form, certain examples from earlier periods are not as legible.

In formulating personal names and corporate body headings for subseries and folders, the Library of Congress Name Authority File was used with certain slight modifications. The years of birth and death were not included, and parenthetical qualifiers were added to certain names when necessary. Many of the leaders from the Revolutionary period used pseudonyms to protect their families. In the Name Authority File, the pseudonym was chosen as the primary identifying name, with cross references made to the actual family name. For example, the name authority for Vladimir Lenin appears as Lenin, Vladimir 11'ich, 1870-1924. There is also a cross reference in the name authority to the name Ul'ianov, Vladimir 11'ich. The heading used in the subseries and folder headings is thus Lenin, Vladimir Il'ich (Ul'ianov). The name authority for Leon Trotsky includes the cross reference for Trotskii, Lev Davidovich. The heading used in this finding aid is Trotsky, Leon (Lev Davidovich).

Description of Series

Container Nos.	Reel Nos.	Series
1	1	Archive of the Foreign Policy of Russia (AVPR), 1938-63. Correspondence, telegrams, transcripts of conversations, and excerpts from personal diaries. Bound chronologically in three volumes plus two unbound items. This series complements the Archive of the President of the Russian Federation (APRF) and Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense (TsAMO) series files on World War II.
1	1	Archive of the Institute of Military History of the Ministry of Defense and the Russian Academy of Sciences (AIVI MO RAN), 1903-45. Reports, official military orders and commands, diplomatic correspondence and dispatches from military attachés. Organized alphabetically by topic, name of person, or event, and subdivided chronologically therein. This series contains copies of documents from other archives, including the Russian State Military Archive and the Ministry of Defense Archive, as well as from the
		former Archive of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. This series parallels the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA) and Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense (TsAMO) series.
2	1	Center for the Preservation of Contemporary Documentataion (TsKhSD), 1920-91. Indexes and forewords to archival inventories, annotated lists, excerpts from official protocols and resolutions, correspondence, reports, proposals, transcripts of conversations, and memoranda. Arranged chronologically.
2	1	Center for the Preservation of Historical Documentary Collections (TsKhlOK), 1918-91, n.d. Correspondence, reproductions of photographs, surveys, newspaper articles, and forewords to archival inventories. Arranged chronologically.
2	1	Central Archive of the Border Troops (TsAPV), 1950-60. Official reports, special communiques, maps, diagrams, and other documents. Arranged chronologically.

Container Nos.	Reel Nos.	Series
3-5	2	Central Archive of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (TsAFSB RF), 1918-92.
3-4	2-3	Investigation File, 1918-92. Secret agent information and reports on Russian émigrés, investigation files, correspondence, lists, and photographs. Organized alphabetically by name of person or organization being investigated and chronologically therein.
4-5		Emigration File, 1920-39. Reports, correspondence, lists, leaflets, and character profiles. Organized alphabetically by name of person, organization, or geographical area and chronologically therein.
5-10		Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense (TsAMO), 1919-92, n.d.
5-6	3	War Preparation File, 1928-41. Official military orders, reports, correspondence, telegrams, speeches, and analytical reviews. Organized alphabetically by name of person or subject and chronologically therein.
7-9	4-5	World War II File, 1941-57. Directives, orders, telegrams, resolutions, instructions, correspondence, memoirs, situation reports, secret agent and reconnaissance reports, memoranda, dispatches, communiques, and analytical reviews. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject and chronologically therein.
9-10	5-6	End of War and Repatriation File, 1944-87, n.d. Correspondence, reports, and translations of foreign documents. Organized alphabetically by name of person or subject and chronologically therein.
10	6-7	Post-World War II File, 1944-92, n.d. Reports, lists, telegrams, photographs, and miscellaneous documents. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, subject, or geographical area and chronologically therein.
11	7	Central Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (TsA MVD), 1929-38. Official reports.

Container Nos.	Reel Nos.	Series
11-14	7-8	Personal Papers, 1912-95, n.d. Reports, speeches, abstracts, reports, interviews, newspaper articles, transcripts, outlines, articles, notes, photographs and correspondence. Organized alphabetically by name of person or subject, and chronologically therein.
14-15	8-9	Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Recent Historical Documents (RTsKhIDNI), 1887-1992, n.d. Personal files, correspondence, transcripts of conversations, articles, official protocols, resolutions, lists, and personal accounts. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject and subdivided chronologically therein.
16	10	Russian State Archive of the Economy (RGAE), 1919-92. Lists, resolutions, addresses, summaries, concessionary agreements, photographs, official protocols, memoranda, reports, and correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
16-21	10-13	Russian State Military Archive (RGVA), 1905-47. Correspondence, orders, directions, reports, dispatches, telegrams, direct-communication conversations, summaries, and surveys. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or subject and alphabetically therein.
21-22	13-14	State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF) [formerly the Central State Archive of the October Revolution (TsGAOR)], 1904-69. Correspondence, secret police notes, circulars, decrees, resolutions, protocols, orders, theses, petitions, reports, memoranda, texts of wills, and interrogations. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, organization, or subject and chronologically therein.
OV 1	15	Oversize, 1917-94. Oversize material consisting of correspondence, official protocols, reports, financial lists, newspaper articles, personal memoirs, and investigation reports, arranged and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.
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OV 2	20	CLOSED OVERSIZE

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World War II, military orders and reports from fronts,
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CENTRAL ARCHIVE OF THE BORDER TROOPS (TSAPV), 1950-60

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12	7-8	Yeltsin, Boris Nikolayevich, Apr. 1991-Dec. 1995, n.d. (2 folders) Doctoral dissertation, MarApr. 1990 Film scenarios, Oct. 1990-Feb. 1992, n.d. Interviews and articles, Aug. 1987-Feb. 1995, n.d. (2 folders) Korean War, article on, n.d.
	_	Kronstadt Uprising, Mar. 1921; Jan. 1994 Memoirs, Nov. 1985-Nov. 1988, n.d. Miscellaneous, May 1925-Dec. 1927; Oct. 1987-Aug. 1993, n.d. National archival policies, July 1991-Mar. 1992, n.d. Personal affairs, AugSept. 1987; Aug. 1993-Aug. 1995, n.d.
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                       Russian State Military Archive (RGVA)
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Trotsky, Leon (Lev Davidovich), May 1923

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Appendix A

AIVI MO RAN

Arkhiv Instituta Voennoi Istorii Ministerstva Oborony

i Rossiiskoi Akademit Nauk

Archive of the Institute of Military History of the Ministry

of Defense and the Russian Academy of Sciences

AVPR

Arkhiv Vneshnei Politiki Rossii

Archive of the Foreign Policy of Russia

GARF

Gosudarstvennyi Arkhiv Rossiiskoi Federatsii

State Archive of the Russian Federation

RGAE

Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennyi Arkhiv Ekonomiki

Russian State Archive of the Economy

RGVA

Rossiiskii Gosudartsvennyı Voennyi Arkhiv

Russian State Military Archive

RTsKhIDNI

Rossiiskii Tsentr Khranenia i Izuchenia Dokumentov

Noveishei Istorii

Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Recent

Historical Documents

TsA FSB RF

Tsentral'nyi Arkhiv Federal'noi Sluzhby Bezopasnosti

Rossiiskoi Federatsii

Central Archive of the Federal Security Service of the

Russian Federation

TsA MO	Tsentral'nyi Arkhiv Ministerstva Oborony
	Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense
TsA MVD	Tsentral'nyi Arkhiv Ministerstva Vnutrennikh Del
	Central Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
TsA PV	Tsentral'nyi Arkhiv Pogranichnykh Voisk
	Central Archive of the Border Troops
TsKhIDK	Tsentr Khraneniia Istoriko-Dokumental'nykh Kollektsii
	Center for the Preservation of Historical Documentary Collections
TsKhSD	Tsentr Khraneniia Sovremennoi Dokumentatsii
	Center for the Preservation of Contemporary Documentation